

This is when Dr. Richter sprang into action, first submitting visa applications for his staff and scholars. When the timeline for evacuation shrank from months to weeks to days, he worked around the clock to find them a seat on one of the planes leaving Hamid Karzai International Airport. Dr. Richter had firsthand experience with the chaos of an evacuation—he himself was airlifted out of South Sudan when a civil war broke out in 2013.

Thankfully, his tireless efforts paid off. The GRAIN program scholars and their families made it onto our convoy of buses and finally made it through the airport gates after multiple attempts and nearly 24 harrowing hours. Madam Speaker, words alone can't express my gratitude for everything that Dr. Richter did—and continues to do—for the individuals that he vouched for. Simply put, his advocacy saved lives and it deserves to be recognized by a grateful community and nation.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Kurt Richter for his willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For his efforts to identify vulnerable scientists, particularly female scholars, when they feared for their lives and for his character that faithfully upholds the values of Michigan State University, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to his dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
PERRYSBURG HIGH SCHOOL FOR
WINNING THE DIVISION I GIRLS
STATE CROSS-COUNTRY CHAM-
PIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding high school cross-country team in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. The young women of the Perrysburg High School girls' cross-country team have represented their school ably on their way to becoming the Champions of the Division I Girls State Cross-Country Championship. The Perrysburg Yellow Jackets overcame the challenges of intense competition on the path to reach the championship, capping off an outstanding season with their noteworthy performance.

In pursuing the State Championship, the Perrysburg Yellow Jackets defeated their outstanding competitors to win the state cross-country title. The Yellow Jackets ran an impressive final meet that highlighted the perseverance they have demonstrated throughout their trip to the championship. Each member of this very special team has shown the individual effort that their sport requires for a successful team result. As a direct consequence of their hard work and dedication, they achieved an impressive season record that brought pride to their community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the Perrysburg High School cross-country team. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

CONGRATULATING ALEXIS LEONE
FOR WINNING THE WASHINGTON
STATE 1A GIRLS CROSS COUN-
TRY CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Alexis Leone of Seton Catholic High School for winning the Washington state 1A girls cross country championship. The COVID-19 pandemic limited many of our prep athletes from competing during the 2020 season, yet high school athletes like Alexis have demonstrated the ability to adapt and persevere in these competitions. For Alexis, that perseverance has paid off in a big way.

Competing in prep sports is a wonderful opportunity to learn lessons in discipline, focus, team play, work ethic and comradery. Winning a state title is a momentous achievement Alexis can be proud of for the rest of her life, and I have confidence she will find success using the lessons she learned while competing in cross country. Go Cougars.

CARRIE MEEK: THE SUNSHINE
STATE'S PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a champion for all people, a fighter for fair housing, an unrelenting advocate, and an American trailblazer. This woman was a friend and was our colleague as a former member of this body. The champion I rise to salute today is the Honorable Carrie Mae Pittman Meek—the Sunshine State's Public Servant.

Congresswoman Meek was born the grandchild of a slave and daughter of a sharecropper. As the youngest of 12 children growing up in Tallahassee, Florida, she excelled in academics and used education to overcome systemic obstacles that were the routine reality of those times, including sexism, racism and discrimination.

After earning her undergraduate degree from Florida A&M University, Congresswoman Meek enrolled at the University of Michigan to earn her master's degree because Florida banned Black students from attending state graduate schools at that time, according to her Congressional biography. The state government would pay her out-of-state tuition "if we agreed to get out of Dodge," she once recalled.

The then-single mother of two started her professional career as a college professor and coach at Bethune Cookman University, then taught at her alma mater Florida A&M University, before taking her talents to Miami-Dade Community College as its first Black professor, associate dean and assistant to the vice president.

With a firm foundation as a college professor, our former colleague beat out 12 other candidates when she ran for the Florida state House in 1978. Just five years later, she became the first Black woman elected to the

Florida state Senate. Carrie would go on to leverage her state service into a successful U.S. House campaign in 1992. Alongside former Representatives Corrine Brown and Alcee Hastings, Carrie joined Congress as one of the first Black members elected from Florida since the Reconstruction Era.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, Congresswoman Meek knew the importance of investing federal dollars to provide opportunities for all people and in all communities across this great nation. Her work ethic, thorough knowledge of the legislation before her, and mastery of the legislative process are as much a part of her legacy as her support for public education, affordable housing, and programs to prevent poverty.

As a fighter for women's rights, Congresswoman Meek worked to protect victims of stalking at the state level and focused Congress on important legislation like the Violence Against Women Act. Indeed, her effectiveness as a public servant was only rivaled by her warmth and grace. Warmth, grace, compassion, tenacity, and savvy are some aspects of the Sunshine State's Public Servant that we will always remember.

Congresswoman Meek recently passed away after living a full life of over 95 years. Her funeral services and homegoing celebration are taking place today as I stand before you in this Chamber.

Carrie is survived by her three children Lucia Davis-Raiford, Sheila Davis Kinui, and retired Congressman Kendrick B. Meek of Florida, as well as seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Her entire family will remain in our prayers. May they be comforted to know the courageous spirit of the Honorable Carrie Mae Pittman Meek lives on.

HONORING COMMANDER DAVID H.
MILLNER

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an essential member of our team that worked to receive vulnerable Afghans when they arrived in Albania, Commander David Millner.

Commander Millner has served our nation honorably as a Navy officer for 19 years. In 2007, while attending the Naval Postgraduate School, he was recognized with the Admiral B.R. Inman Award for outstanding contribution to the field of maritime intelligence. He currently serves as the Senior Defense Officer and Attaché at our Embassy in Tirana, where he's responsible for liaising between our armed forces and his Albanian counterparts, which was instrumental as we coordinated the arrival of our group of Afghan refugees.

Simply put, the success of our mission depended on tireless commitment and devotion to the cause. Commander Millner spent long hours alongside Ambassador Kim to ensure that everything would proceed smoothly. He was there, on the tarmac, to help receive our group of evacuees when they first landed on Albanian soil. For his hard work and commitment during our mission, I am forever indebted to him.

As a career naval officer, Commander Millner would tell you that it's essential that